

SECRET

43 FRP: , , , , ,

NON-AGENCY

ACTION: DCI (476) INFO: RF, FILE, D/DCI, DCI/EXDIR, CS/RF, (5/W)

SA/DCI-2

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TOR: 130044Z MAY 82

RR YEKADL
DE YEKDQA #0077 1330002
ZNY MMNSH
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FM SSO DIA
TO SY SEC SHAPE //SACEUR/SCINCEUR//
INFO STATE/RCI

NRO Review

CIA
SSO DIA
SSO USEUCOM

DIA review

ZEM
S E C R E T EYES ONLY
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SSO DIA FOR SECRETARY OF STATE HAIG, WASH DC; CIA INFO MR. CASEY,
WASH DC; SSO DIA INFO LTG WILLIAMS, WASH DC; SSO USEUCOM INFO GEN
SMITH, DCINCEUR, GE

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF PHOTOGRAPHY (U)

1. (S) I APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE ON HOW WE MIGHT USE THE RELEASE OF OVERHEAD PHOTOGRAPHY IN AN EFFORT TO UNDERScore OUR CONCERNS WITH THE SOVIET THREAT PARTICULARLY IN YOUR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.
2. (S) THIS IS NOT A NEW ISSUE AS YOU WELL KNOW. WE HAVE BEEN GRAPPLING WITH IT HERE AND HAVE PUT FORTH SOME VERY PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS INCLUDING THOSE YOU HAVE ADVANCED. BECAUSE THIS IS BASICALLY THE BUSINESS OF THE DCI, I HAVE DISCUSSED THE POINTS YOU HAVE RAISED WITH BOBBY INMAN AND I KNOW THAT HE AND AL HAIG HAVE REVIEWED THE ISSUE AS WELL. I BELIEVE THIS ENTIRE QUESTION OF WHAT INFORMATION WE RELEASE AND TO WHOM SHOULD BE UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW.
3. (S) THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS INCLUDING THE VERY BASIC QUESTION OF HOW PERSUASIVE IMAGERY WOULD ACTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE WITHOUT CORRELATIVE SIGINT AND AVAILABLE INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. THERE IS A SPECTER OF FOIA IMPLICATIONS WHICH VERY LIKELY WOULD ARISE TO PLAGUE US FROM KEEPING NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS CLASSIFIED. WE COULD ALSO CAUSE OUR OWN UNDOING IF WE DO RELEASE PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWING EXCELLENT CAPABILITIES OF OUR COLLECTION SYSTEMS, AND THEREBY ERODE OUR CASE FOR MORE INTRUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION MEASURES IN THE AREA OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. THERE ARE ADDITIONAL IMPLICATIONS AS WELL: THE SOURCES AND METHODS PROBLEM, THE LIKELIHOOD THAT WIDER AREAS OF INTEREST WOULD BE SUBJECT TO

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PRESSURES FOR RELEASE AND THE VERY REAL QUESTION AS TO WHETHER PHOTOGRAPHY WOULD ACTUALLY BE ALL THAT PERSUASIVE TO THE UNTRAINED EYE OR TO THOSE MINDS FOLLOW EMOTION AND IGNORE LOGIC. WE, IN SHORT, MIGHT WELL FIND OURSELVES LOSING MORE IN OTHER AREAS OF NEED WHILE WE REALIZE LITTLE, IF ANY, ADVANCE TOWARD SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF ALTERING THE PERCEPTION OF EUROPEANS ON THE SOVIET THREAT. 4. (S) I AM SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR NEEDS. WE ALL ARE, BUT AT THIS POINT I FEEL THAT I MUST ACCEDE TO THE WISHES OF THE DCI ON THIS QUESTION. WARMEST REGARDS. WEINBERGER
REVW 11 MAY 88

C/S COMMENT: *PLS CONTACT CABLE SEC DUTY OFFICE, X-R-1068, IF DISTRIBUTION TO ADDITIONAL AGENCY COMPONENTS IS DESIRED.

END OF MESSAGE

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